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Christmas Edition

Insights on Christmas traditions from the nativity to Santa Claus.

pages 6-8

Recession brings new holiday views

Photos by Scott Pereira / Daily Universe

Top: Holly Wynn shops for books at Deseret Book earlier this month. Christmas shopping may not be quite so prominent with the country's recession following Sept. 11. Above: Canned goods lie waiting to be distributed to the needy. Food banks are running low with lack of donations.

Food banks desperate for donations

By Erin Johnson
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NewsNet Staff Writer

Food donation centers in Salt Lake are running low this holiday season as the need for help is steadily rising and supplies are quickly being depleting.

Kathy Scott, community development director for the Salt Lake Salvation Army, said recent layoffs in Utah and the economic downturn have raised a cry for help from many Utah residents.

Scott said food supplies, however, have not been able to keep up with demand. The Salvation Army food supply has little more than a day's worth of food, Scott said.

"People gave so much to 9/11 that they forgot to save some to donate here," she said.

Development Director Rod Miller of the Utah Food Bank said that the bank is still 800,000 pounds short of its goal of 1.5 million pounds of food donations during the holidays. He is still hopeful that donations will increase during the last few weeks of the food drive.

"We're doing as good, if not a little bit better than last year. The main problem is that the need has increased because the economy is not good," Miller said.

The food bank has seen an 11 percent increase in the number of food requests in the last year.

Josh Pederson of the Utah Information and Referral Center said he calculated a 43 percent request increase in October compared with that same time last year. As a result, many food pantries have been closing more frequently, he said.

In addition to Utah's recession, Scott said Olympic opportunists flocking to Utah in hopes of finding quick, high-paying jobs have also complicated the problems. Many of these job seekers are coming to Utah without housing arrangements or backup plans and are having a difficult time finding job placement.

Scott said this influx of homeless people has increased the numbers at the soup kitchens in the Salt Lake area. Since last month, the average number served at the soup kitchen has increased from 350 to 450.

Utah receives thousands of toys from settlement

By Jami Palmer
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NewsNet Staff Writer

Hundreds of Utah children will benefit from more than $66,000 worth of Toys R Us toys to complete a nationwide antitrust settlement.

Scooters, skateboards, Barbie dolls and an array of other toys were delivered to seven Utah agencies to help children.

Utah Attorney Mark Shurtleff helped deliver the toys to the organizations that help needy children.

"It's just awesome to go through all these boxes and boxes of toys and think about what it will mean to the kids," Shurtleff said in a news release.

In 1997, Utah filed a lawsuit, along with 43 other states, claiming Toys R Us prevented manufacturers from selling to discount stores.

The case was settled in 1999 as Toys R Us agreed to pay $40.5 million. Each of the states participating in the suit was given a share dependent upon rough sales and a weighted scale.

Utah's share included approximately $243,000 in children's toys over a three-year period, almost $100,000 in cash and $25,000 in attorney fees, said Paul Murphy, director of communications for the Utah Attorney General's office.

Charities selected to receive the toys were chosen by Assistant Attorney General Wayne Klein.

Klein has been involved since the very beginning of the lawsuit, settlement and the distribution of all the toys.

"This has been a great way to take a naughty business practice and turn it into something nice for thousands of deserving children," Klein said.

Utah agencies receiving a percentage of the settlement include the Utah Division of Child and Family Services, Toys for Tots, Family Support Centers, Domestic Violence Shelters, Children's Justice Centers, Primary Children's Medical Center and the Shriners Hospital for Children.

Klein said these seven charities were selected to receive gifts starting in 1999 based upon the broad range of individuals they serve.

The toys were picked up by each of the agencies on Monday and hauled to their various facilities for distribution to children.

Each agency received a certain percentage of the settlement; however, some agencies that needed more of the donation were given more, Murphy said.

Agencies who choose to save the toys will "have something to give to the children so they can call it their own," Klein said.

Donation needs exceed contributions

By Rachel Olsen
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NewsNet Staff Writer

Seven hundred children in Utah County will be waiting for Santa Claus this year, but it doesn't look like he's on his way.

United Way has more than 209 families still requiring sponsors with the holidays a short two weeks away, said Bill Hulterstrom, president for the United Way for Utah County.

"We have never not been able to help those who needed help," Hulterstrom said.

United Way has had more families apply this year than usual due to Geneva and Novell layoffs and the economy in general, said Jean Cox, communications director for the United Way for Utah County.

"We are really seeing more this year. There is a real increase in the ask," Hulterstrom said.

Hulterstrom said they usually receive a lot of help from last minute volunteers, and the United Way is hoping these volunteers start coming.

"This is really a great experience for the sponsors," Cox said.

"It is a real good way to get that warm Christmas feeling," she said.

With the 1,450 families that have applied for support this year, the United Way has heard many stories, said Brittany Snow, director for the Sub For Santa program for the United Way.

SCAMP set for city council consideration

By Joni Renick
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NewsNet Staff Writer

After years of anticipation and planning, the South Campus Area Master Plan is finally coming to the Provo City Council agenda.

Along with SCAMP, the less publicized but no less important South Joaquin proposal will also come before the board Tuesday.

A public hearing on both proposals will be held that night at 7 p.m.

Forrest Humble, a senior majoring in mechanical engineering, said he plans on being at the meeting Tuesday night, but he said it will be hard because he has three finals scheduled for Wednesday.

Janeal Thornock, BYUSA's legislative assistant, said the date of the public hearing is inconsiderate to students, but she doesn't think the council meant to be inconsiderate by their choice.

Humble said he is not completely opposed to the idea of SCAMP, but he opposes some of the proposal as it now stands.

He believes that the parking requirements for the area should be increased, and said he can't believe the City Council would have the audacity to say students should not have a car.

"Students have just as much a right to own and operate a car as any other citizen," Humble said.

Provo City spokesman Michael Mower said Mayor Lewis Billings does not support any plan that would prohibit students from having cars in Provo.

Mower said parking would be provided for students who live in the area, but students who currently park in the area who do not live there would be directed to park elsewhere.

Humble also does not have a problem with high-density housing, but he does have problem with students being treated as sub-standard citizens.

Students should be given the same level of comfort in this student village as any other student would be given, and that includes a place to park their cars, he said.

Many students don't feel the need to be involved in the public hearing about SCAMP because the actual reality of the project won't happen for another 10 years.

"Students should care about SCAMP because aspects that will help develop SCAMP are going to start happening now, like zoning changes and the South Joaquin plan," Thornock said.

Photo from www.provo.org. Illustration by Scott Pereira

The view from south of campus (800 N. 300 West) is combined with an artist's rendition of what SCAMP would look like in its place. The city council will meet to discuss SCAMP next Tuesday.

It is important for students to first get informed and then get involved, Mower said.

Mower said the city has encouraged student involvement from the start, but the city has found it to be challenging because of the high rate of student turnover.

Brent Turley, a graduate student in civil and environmental engineering from Salt Lake City, said he believes students should be involved with the SCAMP discussion because they have a civic and religious duty to do so.

He also said students should think of their involvement now as a service to future generations who will come to BYU.

Turley likes SCAMP overall because it provides a lot of housing close to campus, but he believes that more parking should be planned in the development.

WORLD

n Laden gloats tape about '11 destruction

ASHINGTON — Osama bin n contentedly recalled the . 11 suicide attacks against rica on a videotape released sday by the Pentagon, saying destruction exceeded his esti- s and the events "benefited greatly."

was the most optimistic of all" in calculating the possi- destruction, bin Laden said eerie detachment. He said he reckoned that burning jet fuel d "melt the iron structure" of World Trade Center twin tow- but only above the point of ct.

e hijackings were a martyr- operation, bin Laden said in nversation with two aides a Saudi sheik, but those who ed them out didn't know the ils until just before they ded the planes.

e sheik, identified by a U.S. ial as Saudi cleric Sheik yman, praised bin Laden for reat job" and appeared to est additional attacks may be ned. "No doubt it is a clear ry ... and he (Allah) will give essing and more victory dur- his holy month of Ramadan," aid.

st American Muslims will cel- te the ending of Ramadan on day.

e tape, amateurish in quality chilling nonetheless, was sed as part of an administra- effort to support claims that Laden was the mastermind ind the attacks that killed ly 3,300 in New York, Wash- on and Pennsylvania. The slation of the Arabic conver- on was provided by the inistration.

—*Associated Press*

ore...
America's reaction — Page 2
World reaction — Page 13

WORLD

tin unhappy ith U.S. pulling t of treaty

OSCOW — Russian President imir Putin on Thursday called U.S. decision to withdraw n the Anti-Ballistic Missile y a "mistake."

esident Bush gave Moscow al notice on Thursday that shington was withdrawing the treaty, marking an end ttempts to negotiate a com- nise with Russia.

is step was not a surprise for lowever, we consider it a mis- ," Putin said.

e U.S. withdrawal would give Americans the green light to duct tests outlawed by the y, which in turn should offer earer sense on the kind of nse that might work.

ssian officials long warned of harp reaction if Bush went ad with his plan. But at his mit with Bush last month in shington and Crawford, s, Putin indicated that a U.S. drawal would not harm U.S.- sia relations, which have roved markedly following the . 11 terror attacks and Rus- participation in the anti-ter- t campaign.

emlin spokesman Sergei Yas- embsky told the Echo of cow radio station that cow would not react harshly e U.S. decision.

— *Associated Press*

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Visiting Cities:
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West Memphis, Ark.
ing City:
mphis, Tenn.

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oday on newsnet.byu.edu
Wild West art display debuts at Museum of Art

News Briefs

Compiled from staff and news service reports

BYU professor remembered for service

Douglas M. Campbell, 58, died Monday of pulmonary fibrosis. Campbell, BYU professor of 30 years, taught a broad range of classes in the Computer Science Department, said John Higgins, a computer science professor.

Campbell began teaching at BYU in 1971 after receiving a doctorate from the University of North Carolina. He completed undergraduate studies at Harvard.

Campbell also wrote several books on topics ranging from retirement planning to Halley's Comet.

"He should be remembered for being on of the brightest people that showed up at BYU," Higgins said.

As well as teaching, Campbell was involved in the community. He served on the Utah Board of Directors, the American Civil Liberties Union and volunteered for Planned Parenthood of Utah.

Fighters may have cornered bin Laden

TORA BORA, Afghanistan — As U.S. planes strafed and bombed al-Qaida positions, Afghan tribesmen and U.S. special forces may have cornered Osama bin Laden and his fighters Thursday in a snowy mountain canyon near the Pakistan border.

U.S. officials also said they had sent more special operations forces into the Tora Bora region, where they may engage in direct combat with al-Qaida fighters who could be protecting bin Laden.

Intensified attacks from the air and on the ground have dramatically reduced the size of the al-Qaida safe haven in the cave-dotted mountains near Tora Bora, U.S. officials said, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

While the officials believe bin Laden may be bottled up with his forces, they admit he could be elsewhere in Afghanistan.

Militants blamed for suicide attacks

NEW DELHI, India — Five suicide attackers in a car with government markings stormed Parliament with a barrage of grenades, explosives and rifle fire Thursday, killing seven other people in a bloody assault at the heart of the world's largest democracy.

Islamic militants, such as those fighting a 12-year insurgency in the disputed Himalayan province of Kashmir, were widely suspected of being behind the attack, which set off a 35-minute gun battle outside the sprawling, red sandstone Parliament building.

Home Minister Lal K. Advani declared "terrorists and their sponsors" were to blame, and another official blamed mercenaries from Pakistan. The Pakistani government condemned the attack, but there was concern it could lead to an escalation of enmity between the South Asian nuclear rivals, who have fought two wars over Kashmir.

President Bush telephoned Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee with condolences and offered FBI and State Department counter-terrorism teams to help investigate.

Bush rejects subpoena for documents

WASHINGTON — President Bush invoked executive privilege for the first time Thursday to keep Congress from seeing documents of prosecutors' decision-making in cases ranging from a decades-old Boston murder to the Clinton-era fund-raising probe.

"I believe congressional access to these documents would be contrary to the national interest," Bush wrote in a memo ordering Attorney General John Ashcroft to withhold the documents from a House investigative committee that subpoenaed them.

The decision institutes a dramatic change in the way the administration intends to deal with Congress after years in which the Justice Department, sometimes reluctantly, shared sensitive investigative documents with lawmakers.

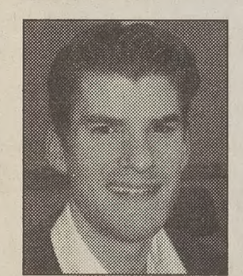
Republicans and Democrats alike excoriated the decision, suggesting Bush was creating a "monarchy" or "imperial" presidency to keep Congress from overseeing the executive branch and guarding against corruption.

Weather

Yesterday	Today	Saturday
High 31 as of Low 25 5 p.m.		
Precipitation Yesterday 0" Month to date 1.05" Year to date 11.30"		
	Snow	Cloudy
	High 37 Low 21	High 26 Low 16

sources: BYU Geography Dept., CNN

Scripture of the Day



"Therefore, the Lord himself shall give you a sign — Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and shall bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil and to choose the good."

— 2 Nephi 17:14-15

Richard Gordon Smith, 21, a sophomore from Surrey, England, majoring in graphic design, likes this scripture because "it talks about Christ, and how he is Immanuel. He is brought up to choose good and refuse the evil, and we like Christ are brought up to seek for the good in life."

America reacts to tape of overjoyed bin Laden

Associated Press

Watching a smiling Osama bin Laden assess the Sept. 11 terror attacks, a man who was in the World Trade Center that day said he wanted to smash his TV screen. Said a Marine who also watched bin Laden, "He needs to be taken out."

For many other Americans, seeing the tape Thursday confirmed their already solid belief in bin Laden's guilt and hatefulness.

Some American Muslims worried that release of the videotape, showing bin Laden and top aides cheerfully discussing the attack's outcome, would provoke a new wave of harassment and vandalism against them, while the father of a Sept. 11 victim wished it had never been made public.

"Whenever I saw it on television I changed the channel," said Anthony Gambale, whose daughter, Giovanna, was killed at the World Trade Center.

"It should be filed away and let the government and the CIA take care of it," Gambale said. "Let everybody rest in peace. Let us get on with our lives."

Mark Finelli, an investment banker who was on the 61st floor of one of the twin towers on Sept. 11, wasn't surprised by what he saw. Nonetheless, the 25-year-old from Tucson, Ariz., felt "very violent and enraged. ... I just wanted to punch the screen."

"I'm a very strong supporter of capital punishment, but in this case, with someone who wants to die, I'm very much in favor of letting him rot."

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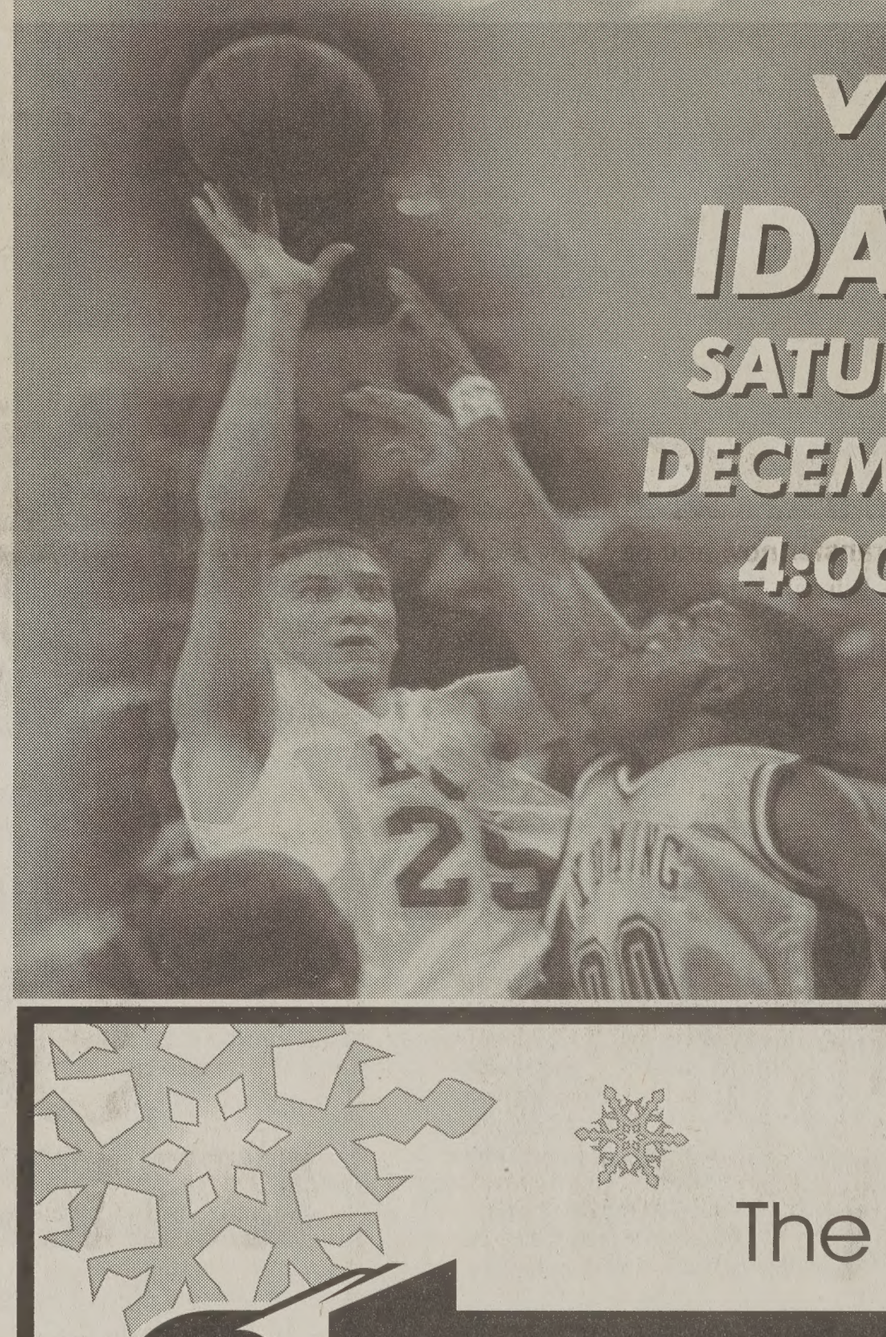

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Campus Health Today

For questions contact "health_web@byu.edu"

Ignorance / stupidity + snow danger = recipe for tragedy

Alton Thygerson, Ph.D.

When the snow falls, the back country beckons. Excitement fills the inhabitants of the Rocky Mountains, and with new toys in tow they head for the slopes.

But snow has a dark side. Snow-covered mountains lure cross-country skiers and snowmobilers beyond the groomed trails of ski resorts. And that gets a lot of people into trouble.

The recent issue of Wilderness and Environmental Medicine published an enlightening article on avalanche deaths in the United States over a 45-year time period — between Jan. 1, 1950, through Dec. 31, 1994.

During the 45 years studied, 440 victims died in 324 separate incidences. Eighty-eight of the victims were fully buried, 5 percent were partially buried and 8 percent were caught but not buried. Nearly 30 percent were uncovered in the first hour. Of the victims who were partially or fully buried, the depth of burial was about 5 feet 6 inches. The length of burial before bodies were uncovered ranged from five minutes to 60 days with an average of about 33 hours.

Most deaths during the 45 years studied occurred in Colorado (145 deaths), Washington (58 deaths), Alaska (53 deaths), Utah (39 deaths) and California (36 deaths). Other fatalities occurred in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, Oregon, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York and Maine.

The greatest number of deaths during the 45 years happened among climbers (112 deaths), back-country skiers (100 deaths), out-of-bounds skiers (44 deaths) and snowmobilers (30 deaths).

Other victims were ski patrollers, workers, motorists, highway workers, snowshoers, hikers, rescuers, hunters, miners, guides and rangers, among others.

Education should be available to individuals venturing into avalanche-prone terrain. There is a distinction between training in recognition and avoidance of avalanche hazards and training in rescue techniques for victims who have been caught.

Relying on rescue education while ignoring prevention may actually increase death and injury from an avalanche by providing a false sense that one can easily and safely survive an avalanche if proper rescue techniques are used.

Avalanches put snow enthusiasts in harm's way. When ignorance and stupidity meet dangerous snow conditions, numerous injuries and needless deaths can happen.

As the winter progresses, future columns will focus on the nature of avalanches and their dangers, recognition of safe terrain, safety measures for travel, snow and weather conditions that frequently cause avalanches, and rescue procedures.

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Closed thru Jan. 1
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Closed Dec. 21-Jan. 2
Reopens Jan. 3
Museum of Art Cafe
Closed Dec. 19-Jan.2
Reopens Jan. 3
The Creamery
Open, Dec. 22 8 a.m - 6 p.m.
Open, Dec. 24, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Closed Dec. 25
Open Dec. 26-29, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Open Dec. 31, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Closed, Jan. 1
Reopens Jan. 2, regular hours
Wyview/Wymount Creameries
Open Dec. 22, 12 noon - 6 p.m.
Open Dec. 24, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Closed Dec. 25
Open Dec. 26-29, 12 noon - 6 p.m.
Open Dec. 31, 12 noon - 6 p.m.
Closed, Jan. 1
Reopens Jan. 2, regular hours
The Creamery on Ninth
Open Dec. 22, 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Open Dec. 24, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Closed Dec. 25
Open Dec. 26, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Open Dec. 27, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
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New planner promotes Y

By Bill Brady
brady@newsroom.byu.edu
NewsNet Staff Writer

Students, staff and alumni who want to keep BYU close at hand are getting help from the FranklinCovey company.

FranklinCovey finished work on a BYU edition of its day planner for 2002.

The planner was designed for Cougar fans who want to show their true colors, said Jamie Gull, head of Affinity Marketing for FranklinCovey.

"The planner is full of excellent information about BYU," Gull said.

He said the planner will help all fans of BYU polish their knowledge of school history and trivia.

In addition to regular FranklinCovey planner features, the BYU edition contains images of campus on every page, inspiring quotes from BYU leaders and interesting facts about the school.

Each page is designed in BYU blue and tan and carries the school logo.

Michael Busenbark, executive director of the BYU Alumni Association, said Franklin contacted BYU at the end of August.

"Our first question was whether or not alumni would be interested in the product," he said.

Busenbark said any time the Alumni Association enters into a business arrangement, steps are made to ensure only useful products and services are offered.

"As long as alumni are buying planner refills, we figured they'd be interested in the BYU edition," he said.

Busenbark said the marketing and communications staff of the Alumni Association spent many hours on short notice to provide content for the planner.

> "It was a rush to find great stuff people had never heard of."
> —Todd Michaelis, Alumni Association

"We collected quotes, interesting facts and photos," said Todd Michaelis, assistant director of marketing and communications for the Alumni Association.

"It was a rush to find great stuff people had never heard of," he said.

FranklinCovey will donate a portion of proceeds to the BYU Alumni Association. Donated funds will support scholarships and alumni programs.

Students learn survival skills

By Kathryn Huber
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NewsNet Staff Writer

Rachel Hickman drew a crowd of students who said they were tense and worried at her lecture Thursday on "Managing Finals Stress."

Hickman, a graduate student working with Women's Services and Resources, chose to concentrate her presentation on slowing down and quieting life rather than adding to the stressful feeling.

"We have our own inner rhythm that is sensitive to circumstances," Hickman said. "When we allow it to come out and be sharpened by the Spirit, we can succeed."

Hickman said life teaches our bodies to react with more tension than is necessary. Students are pros at psyching themselves in order to succeed, she said.

However, stress actually hinders students' ability to study successfully and perform well on exams, she said.

Getting enough sleep, eating healthy foods, praying regularly and discovering the essence of "child-likeness" are a few of the tactics Hickman listed as keys to real success.

"When you take care of your body, your body will take care of you," Hickman said.

Students are more likely to go into a mode of catastrophic thinking when they do not get enough sleep, Hickman said. When students eat too much junk food their bodies go numb, she said.

"Your mind and your body work together," Hickman said. "Eating good food and getting enough sleep invigorate them both."

Best of Police Beat

SUSPICIOUS PERSONS
A student reported a suspicious man to BYU police on Tuesday, Oct. 2, at 6:30 p.m. The man was dressed all in black and armed with knives. After investigations, police concluded the subject was a member of a medieval club on campus and he was dressed in costume.

SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR
A patron at the BYU football game on Nov. 1 ran onto the ramp and set off the game cannon. He was cited for public intoxication.

Academic support reported a suspicious letter received on Nov. 1. They said a former student sent them the letter. In the letter he said "BYU students shouldn't have any physical contact with the opposite sex until after marriage, including kissing." The writer then offered his services to screen people who go to BYU.

THEFT
Seven pairs of women's underwear were reported stolen from a laundry room in Heritage Halls on Tuesday. The owner last saw the underwear while she transferred clothing into the dryer in A. Richard Hall. A man with shoulder length hair was seen loitering around laundry rooms at Heritage Halls the same day. Students should notify University Police if a man with a similar description is seen in the area.

At 5 p.m. on Nov. 30, three college age men entered an apartment in Heritage Halls with a shopping cart. After asking for groceries, the suspects began filling the shopping cart with food. None of the residents knew the men. An estimated $10 worth of food was stolen.

At 12:30 a.m. on Sept. 7, keys and clothes were stolen from a bathroom in R Hall at Deseret Towers while the owner was showering. The keys were not recovered, and the clothes were found in a toilet in the same bathroom. Police have no suspects.

VANDALISM
On Monday, Oct. 1 between 2:45 and 3:15 a.m. all the bathroom stall partitions were removed from one floor of W Hall at Deseret Towers. The partitions were set up outside the dorms. Police are investigating.

On Oct. 4 at 11 p.m. a gas can filled with ignited smoke bombs was found in the mezzanine of May Hall at Helaman Halls. The smoking can was taken outside and the fire was extinguished. University Police said the incident is connected to a prank between the men's dorms in Helaman Halls.

A student driving southbound past the practice range was hit by a stray golf ball. A male student had hit a ball over the fence, but said he was unaware he had hit anything. The ball went through the driver's side window and hit her in the head. She was treated at the scene for minor head injuries.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT
A male student was throwing small, black rubber hoses filled with blue paint at students in the HBLL quad on Sept. 14. A targeted female student attempted to chase the offender down, but lost him on campus. Police have no suspects.

At 11:20 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 11, a student was caught throw... ing birthday cake off an overpas... onto North Campus Drive. H... was issued a warning.

SUSPICIOUS PACKAGE
A female BYU student living i... Deseret Towers received a suspi... cious looking brown paper pack... age in the mail. The student di... not recognize the return addres... and called the police. After inves... tigating, police concluded ... friend had purchased a Beani... Baby off of eBay and had eBa... send the Beanie Baby directly t... the BYU student.

DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY
A glass panel of a telephon... booth at Helaman Halls shattere... in an attempt to fit eight peopl... into the booth. As a third perso... entered the phone booth, th... pressure caused the panel t... break.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
On Oct. 26 a student employee i... the Harold B. Lee Library dis... covered a clear bag filled with ... white crystalline substance. Th... student tasted the substance an... because it tasted bitter, reporte... the bag to the police. The polic... concluded the substance was ci... ric acid. The student shows n... medical problems to date. Polic... said they discourage student... from tasting unidentified sut... stances.

On Oct. 26 at 6 a.m. a custodia... in the Jesse Knight Humanitie... Building found a threatening no... reading "Death To Americans ... and a white powdery substance i... the trash can. Police investig... tions discovered students ha... used these objects as props in ... class presentation and had di... carded them in the trash can.

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Messiah' sing-in strikes chord with residents

Jenni Carlquist
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wsNet Staff Writer

he Provo Tabernacle will be ed with the sounds of a musi- performance with an unusual ist tonight — the performers n't just be practiced musi- ns, they'll also include mem- s of the audience.

he annual "Messiah" Sing-in, nsored by the Provo City Arts uncil, has become a Christmas dition for people in Utah Val- , said Kathryn S. Allen, the cutive director of the council. This is a wonderful program, especially when you get to sing the 'Hallelujah Chorus,'" Allen said. "You can get up and sing and just feel such a part of it."

The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $7 for adults, and $5 for students and senior citizens, Allen said.

She said the event is for adults and requests that children younger than 8 not attend.

Copies of the music can be rented for $3 or can be purchased for $9.

"For some people it's like going to church: you bring your scriptures. If you go to the 'Messiah,' you bring your score," Allen said.

Dancers stage Christmas classic

By Angelina Carini
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NewsNet Staff Writer

One of Christmas' most beloved stories will tiptoe across the de Jong Concert Hall stage Tuesday through Dec. 22 with the Utah Regional Ballet Company's rendition of "The Nutcracker."

The opening night performance will pay special tribute to the late William Christensen and to all former company dancers of Utah Regional Ballet, said Melynda Burt, Utah Regional Ballet publicist.

Christensen is the founder of the first ballet department at an American university, the University of Utah, and is also the founder of Ballet West. He is recognized for choreographing the first full-length version of "The Nutcracker."

Choreography for "The Nutcracker" is original choreography by Jacqueline Colledge, but she gives much credit to Christensen for his influence in her life and in her artistic work, she said.

According to Colledge, more than 200 ballet dancers have passed through the ballet company since its establishment in 1980. Opening night ceremonies will also include a dedication to all former company members.

Amanda Bodily, one of the "Nutcracker" performers, leaps across the stage.

Photo courtesy of Utah Regional Ballet

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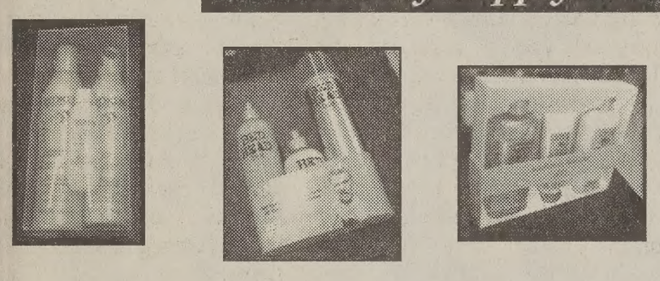

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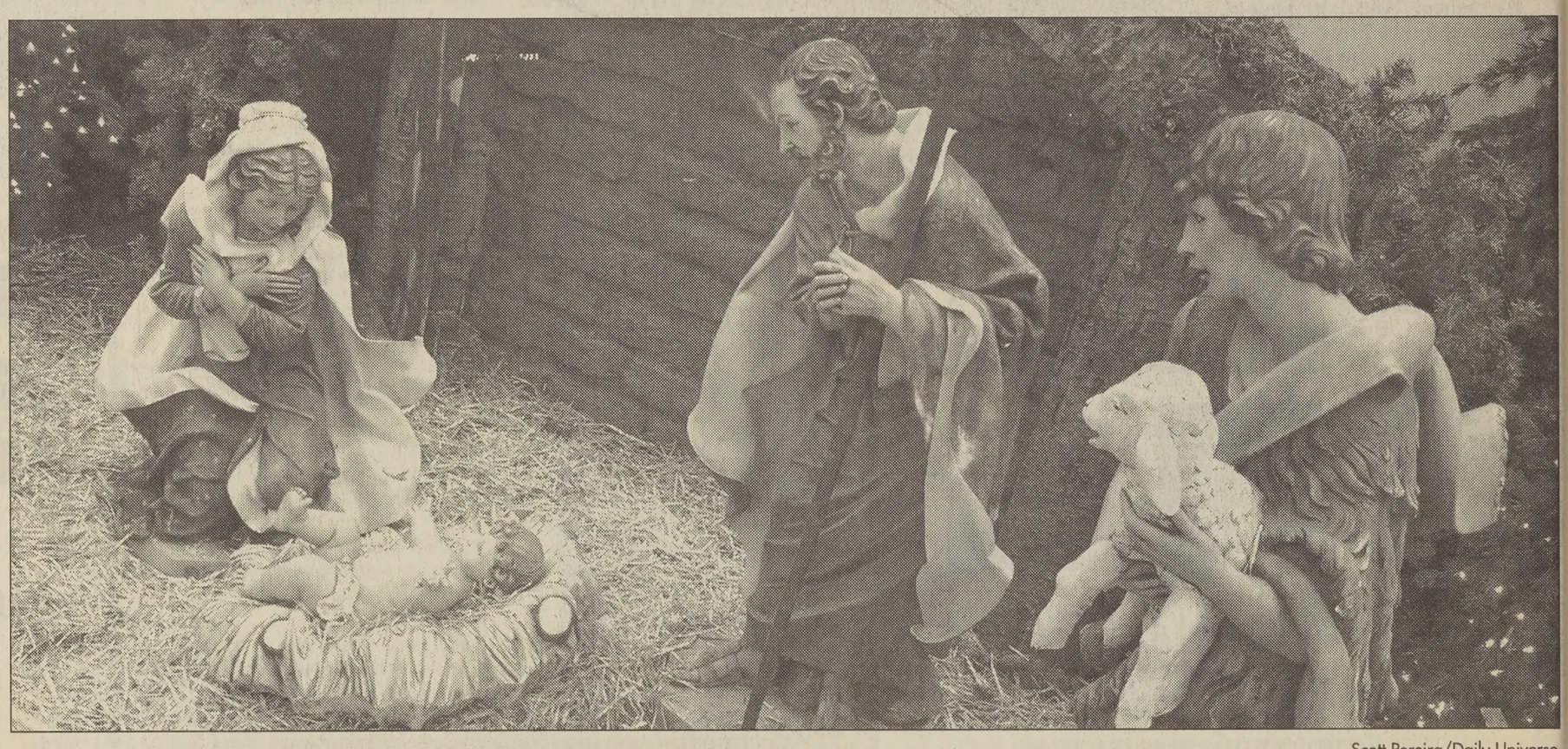
Manger scenes generate holiday spirit

By Noelle Magelssen and Charity Brunson
chaity@newsroom.byu.edu
NewsNet Staff Writer



Scott Pereira/Daily Universe

The nativity scene displayed on the second floor of the Wilkinson Student Center is a constant reminder of the reason Christmas is celebrated.

Kali Church loves everything about Christmas — Santa, the lights, the smell of freshly cut pine trees — but most of all, she loves the nativities depicting Christ's birth.

Church, a 1994 graduate of BYU, began her nativity collection during a study abroad trip in Jerusalem.

She was struck by the nativities' beauty and meaning, and now she owns over 120 of them.

"I love nativities because I love the Savior — his life and his mission," Church said.

Among her favorites are an olive wood nativity from the Holy Land and a carved ebony log crèche from Kenya.

The term crèche refers to nativity scenes. It is actually the French word for crib or cradle.

"My collection is a reflection of the fact that people all over the world believe in Christ," she said.

Although her collection is large, Church said it is a relatively affordable example of celebrating Christ.

"My collection isn't terribly expensive but it is priceless to me," she said.

Church enjoys sharing her collection with family and friends.

"I love to let my little nephews and nieces touch and handle the pieces to help them appreciate the baby Jesus," she said.

Scott Pereira /Daily Universe

Baby Jesus reminds students of the true spirit of Christmas.

Church also lent fifteen nativities to the Provo crèche exhibit this year.

Sue Hollingshead, the chair of the Provo crèche display, said the tradition of celebrating Christmas with nativity displays was popularized by St. Francis of Assisi.

St. Francis loved animals. He commemorated the Savior's birth by holding a miracle-infused Christmas service in a stable. As a result, the nativity trend quickly spread.

Provo has hosted an inter-faith crèche display for the last four years. This year it featured over 500 nativity displays from all across the world.

"Even in countries where Christianity is not the prominent religion, artists have depicted their belief in Christ and depict what is indicative of their culture," Hollingshead said.

Polish professor Walter Whipple also contributed to the exhibit.

> **"My collection isn't terribly expensive but it is priceless to me."**
> — Kali Church, BYU graduate

He has been collecting carved wooden Polish nativities and depictions of other biblical scenes since serving as mission president in Warsaw from 1990 to 1993.

"They are a delight to young and old and highlight one of the most important events in human history — the birth of Christ," Whipple said.

A traveling exhibit of 125 pieces, including 20 of his 30 crèches, is now on display at the temple visitor's center in Washington D.C.

Whipple said although his initial purchases were made at stores, he obtained most of his collection through correspondences and personal visits with Polish folk artists.

David Lau, 22, a sophomore and open major from Kahala, Hawaii, volunteered as a host at the crèche exhibit.

He said the nativity has always been significant in his family's celebration of Christmas.

"It is a way for families, even for one such as my own with varying denominations, to come together," Lau said.

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Shortened break causes concern

By Erin Johnson
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NewsNet Staff Writer

The end of the semester is a busy time for students, but there's always the promise of a nice, long Christmas break to keep students going — well, maybe not this year.

Many BYU students are finding it hard to go home for the holidays since Winter Semester classes start only two days after New Year's.

Lorie Thompson, a sophomore from Washington, D.C, majoring in pre-nursing, said she will not be going home this Christmas because the break is just too short for such expensive plane tickets.

"I went home for Thanksgiving, so it's just too much money to go home for Christmas as well. The break isn't long enough to travel all the way home again and then have to turn around and come back for classes on the third," Thompson said.

Senior Kyle Stewart, an elementary education major, does not have quite as far to travel to Arizona.

But he still said he feels the time crunch in trying to spend time with family during such a short break.

"I only have five days to spend with my family and I haven't seen them since this summer and probably won't see them again until next summer," Stewart said.

Ron Bybee, an academic scheduling officer, said the shortened break was necessary this year because of the week students have off for the Olympics in February and because Fall Semester finals go until Dec. 21.

"There's no other days of the year to play with, it's just a very tight calendar this year," he said.

BYU is required to have 70 instruction days each semester, Bybee said, so there are no other options to making up the days that will be missed in February.

He said he hopes students will plan their time carefully so they will not be rushing back to school Jan. 3 and putting themselves in danger of having an accident on the way back to school.

"Whether we give them a lot or a little, they always want to maximize their time with their families. They need to plan out their time carefully," Bybee said.

Home for holidays adds to traditions

By Corey P. Christiansen
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NewsNet Staff Writer

Christmas is not just a time for food and presents, it's also a time for families.

As students begin to prepare for finals, many wish they could already be home for the holidays.

Greg Vaughan, 21, a junior from Sandy, Salt Lake County, majoring in Russian studies, said he was excited to have Christmas at home this year. He spent the previous two Christmases on a mission in Russia.

The annual traditions of sledding and family snowball fights are what he looks forward to most, he said.

"Christmas has always been a close-knit family thing," he said.

Other students agree that being together with the family is one of the greatest parts of Christmas.

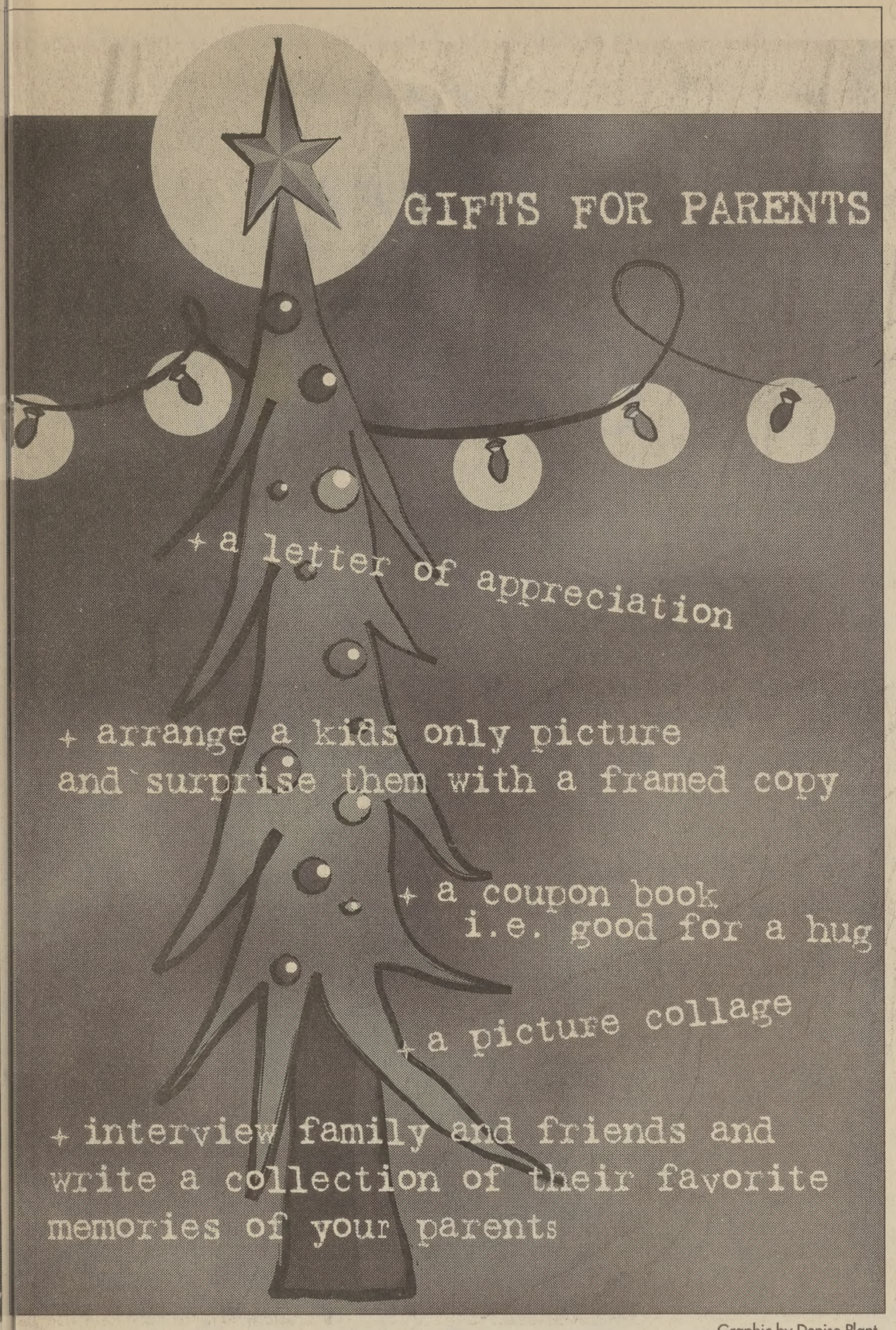
"The family needs a holiday and that's what Christmas is," said Cristall Harper, a BYU graduate from Columbia, Mo.

For Harper, however, the challenges of being married and having to combine holiday traditions are just part of the season.

This is the third Christmas Harper and her husband, Matthew, have spent together. They alternate between families and see a great disparity between their families' versions of the holiday.

"Last Christmas was my first away from home and it was hard," Harper said. "Everything's different from the meal to the decorations. It feels like it's not even the same holiday."

Even though spending Christmas with a new family and new traditions is hard, it is still wonderful just to be together, Harper said.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ps to give

the hard-to-buy parents, here are some suggestions for gifts. The importance of giving fami- eart-felt gifts reaches past the commercialization of Christmas.

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Santa as a Union Leader
Father Christmas

source: www.saint_nick.com/santa graphic by Denise Plant

Representations of different images of Santa Claus show different cultures around the world. Although Santa is known by many different names and many countries have varying traditions, the essence and spirit of Christmas is captured in him.

Even with different names, spirit of Santa the same

By Amberlie Romney
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NewsNet Staff Writer

Santa Claus, Father Christmas, Grandfather Frost, Kris Kringle or Saint Nicolas. No matter how you say it, he's the image of charity and kindness.

His image takes on as many looks and traditions as there are countries in the world.

Chantal Thompson, a professor in the French Department, said the image of Father Christmas in France's northern and eastern regions is extremely different from the American Santa Claus.

In France, Father Christmas is a tall thin character wearing a long red robe, trimmed with white fur, she said.

America's jovial Santa Claus figure was introduced to Dutch immigrants. They brought the legend of Sinter Klaas to New York in the 17th century, Thompson said.

Originally he was St. Nicolas, a bishop who was said to have died on Dec. 6. The French believed him to be a man of great kindness who would save children from untimely deaths.

Like France, many countries in Europe believe Santa Claus to be a kindly character that delivers gifts. In Germany he is called Weinachtsmann or the Christ man. He is known as a helper of Christ.

In Russia, the Santa Claus character is called Grandfather Frost.

Anastasia Varlakove, from the Ural Mountains of Russia, majoring in media arts, said Grandfather Frost possesses the same physical attributes as the American Santa Claus, but he comes during their New Year celebration.

In Scandinavia, the origin of Santa Claus is based on pagan tradition. According to the holiday Web site, Santalady.com., Joulupukki is similar to the American Santa but patterned after the ancient pagan yule goat.

Ilia Melamud, from Israel, is a student majoring in electronic engineering. He said where he lives, the people don't believe in Santa Claus or ancient pagan yule goats.

In Israel there is no Christmas at all. He said the area consists of mostly Jews and Jewish holidays usually fall in the American month of September.

Even if Santa Claus is not a real person, the idea of him is very real. Research Web site Vote.com said of over 4,000 votes cast, 66 percent of people said although Santa is not a real person, he's real in the sense that he spreads the Christmas spirit.

Only 34 percent of those polled said Santa is nothing but a marketing ploy.

Santa Claus also known as

France — Father Christmas
Germany — Weinachtsmann
Russia — Grandfather Frost
Scandinavia — Joulupukki

Tradition of Christmas trees has roots in 16th century Europe

By Kallee Nielsen
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NewsNet Staff Writer

Scott Pereira/Daily Universe

Christmas trees are a traditional decoration during the holiday season. The Christmas tree has been a symbol of Christianity since the 12th century.

For the Turnbow family, the Christmas season begins with a trip to the high Uintahs to find the perfect tree.

Cousins, uncles and aunts make the trip together on horses and snow mobiles.

They scale the mountains until they find just the right blue spruce: bushy, six feet tall, standing alone.

Josh Turnbow, 22, a junior from Sandy, Salt Lake County majoring in accounting, said his family has cut their own Christmas tree for as long as he can remember.

Then depending on the year, the family either decorates the tree with white lights and fancy ornaments, or colored lights, "the big, old-time ones," and candy canes and tinsel.

"And no matter what, bubble lights go around the bottom of the tree," Turnbow said.

The tradition of Christmas trees has been around for centuries

In the 7th century, a monk from England went to Germany to teach the word of God.

Legend has it that he used the triangular shape of the fir tree to describe the Holy Trinity of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The converted people began to revere the fir tree as God's tree, as they had previously revered the oak.

By the 12th century it was hung, upside-down, from ceilings at Christmastime in Central Europe, as a symbol of Christianity.

The first decorated tree was at Riga in Latvia, in 1510.

In the last quarter of the 16th century, Martin Luther is said to have decorated a small Christmas tree with candles, to show his children how the stars twinkled through the dark night.

Today, tree-decorating continues but perhaps on a larger scale.

Shannyn Everett, 20, a Provo resident, said her family likes to get a big Christmas tree, 10 or 11 feet tall.

"We always go as a family to pick out the Christmas tree," she said.

Melinda Ortiz, 20, a junior from Hollywood, Calif. majoring in family history said her family's tree is decorated with old ornaments with scenes of the nativity on them.

"We put an my grandmother's angel figurine on top that's 50 years old," she said. " I hope to inherit it some day."

Merry Christmas from all of us at News Net

pictured above: just a few of the students and full-time workers that make News Net run 24-7.
designed by Julia Smith